

## The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

### Art

LECTURES ON EGYPTIAN ART. By *Jean Capart*. University of North Carolina Press. \$5.

### Belles Lettres

HOMER'S ITHACA: A Vindication of Tradition. By *SIR RENNELL RODD*. Longmans, Green. 1927. \$2.40.

In the days when Homer was regarded as simply a romancer, and the war of Troy as a myth, it was a matter of very little moment whether the places named in the Iliad and the Odyssey could be located or not. But latterly, since the results of archaeological investigation have begun to confirm Homer in so striking a fashion, his admirers have become very anxious to prove him trustworthy at all points. This is not always easy to do. The question here dealt with is whether the Ithaca where Odysseus lived is one with the classical Ithaca, the modern Thiaki. The dispute is no longer between those who believe in Homer's accuracy and those who do not, but between those who believe that his description of Ithaca cannot be satisfied by the island later so called and those who believe it can. Of the latter party is Sir Rennell Rodd; his most formidable opponent is Dr. Dörpfeld, to whose acuteness and industry the study of prehistoric Greece owes so much. Both have studied not only the text, but the ground, both are equally respectful of their source. Neither avoids all the difficulties, but most readers will feel that the thesis of the present book strains the evidence less than does Dr. Dörpfeld's ingenious hypothesis that the original Ithaca was the semi-island of Leucas from which the inhabitants were expelled, carrying the name with them to their new home.

Whatever one's personal convictions, the new book is welcome, for it contains much of the best available firsthand description of the territory, together with a pair of sketch maps, the lack of which has made many discussions of the problem very difficult to follow. The book is pleasantly written, though too brief to exhaust all aspects of the question. The author's conclusion is that Homer must have been personally acquainted with Ithaca to describe it so vividly. An alternative suggestion (originally Berard's) that he followed the data in an ancient sea tale, is elaborated by Frank Brewster in an article on "Ithaca, Dulichium, Samos, and wooded Zacynthus" in the Harvard Studies in Classical Philology, 1925. He there discusses some points left untouched by Sir Rennell, and refers more fully to the literature of the subject. But the American argues from charts; the Englishman has sailed up the Ithaca channel and carefully explored the island, and he is the more convincing.

A HISTORY OF MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE. By *Sir Edmund Gosse*. Appleton. \$1.  
LIVING ENGLISH STUDIES. By *Ettie Lee*. Macmillan.

### Biography

WHO'S HOOVER? By *WILLIAM HARD*. Dodd, Mead. 1928.

Readers who are accustomed to skip prefaces will be doubly fortunate in omitting the pretentious and commonplace "View-point" which Mr. Hard has prefixed to his well-told story of one of the most interesting of American careers. His opening chapter, "Quaker Youth," is particularly illuminating in its tracing of some of Mr. Hoover's outstanding characteristics to the ingrained principles and the temperament of the religious sect of which his mother was an officer. Even his Republicanism, insincerely questioned by politicians who were at a loss for objections to his candidacy which they could avow, goes back to his boyhood in an Iowa village where everybody with one solitary exception naturally joined the party which opposed the extension of slavery and by so much took the Quaker position. While Mr. Hard's book suffers from an apparently uncontrollable tendency to drag in his own ideas, it is a careful and comprehensive account and one which shows, as any such account must, that Mr. Hoover is not so devoid of political skill as some folks think.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. By *W. H. Herndon* and *Jesse W. Weik*. Appleton. 2 vols. \$1 each.  
LETTERS FROM BROOK FARM. By *Marianne Dwight*. Edited by *Amy L. Reed*. Vassar College.

FROM COLONEL TO SUBALTERN. By *Lt. Col. M. F. McTaggart*. Scribner's. \$5.

THE BALLOON BUSTER. By *Frank Norman Hall*. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net.  
THE PAPERS OF SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON. Edited by *Alexander C. Flick*. Vol. VI. Albany: University of the State of New York.

### Economics

INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY AND SOCIAL ECONOMY. By *Nassau W. Senior*. Edited by *S. Leon Levy*. Holt. 2 vols.  
A WAY OF ORDER FOR BITUMINOUS COAL. By *Walton H. Hamilton* and *Helen R. Wright*. Macmillan. \$2.50.  
A THEORY OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. By *Selig Perlman*. Macmillan.

### Education

ETHICS. By *Frank Chapman Sharp*. Century. \$3.50.  
SOCIAL PROBLEMS. By *John Lewis Gillin*, *Clarence G. Dittmer*, and *Roy J. Colbert*. Century. \$3.75.  
FRENCH LITERATURE IN OUTLINE. By *Philip H. Churchman* and *Charles E. Young*. Century. \$1.60.  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES. By *Graham H. Stuart*. Century. \$3.75.  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE AGES. By *James Westfall Thompson*. Century. \$5.  
HUNTING UNDER THE MICROSCOPE. By *Sir Arthur E. Shipley*. Edited by *C. F. A. Pantin*. Macmillan.  
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. By *Fred Rogers Fairchild* and *Ralph Theodore Compton*. Macmillan.  
ADULT LEARNING. By *Edward L. Thorndike*, *Elsie O. Bregman*, *J. Warren Tilton*, and *Ella Woodyard*. Macmillan.  
CHILDREN IN THE NURSERY SCHOOL. By *Harriet M. Johnson*. Day. \$3 net.  
INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH COMPOSITION. By *Stephen DeWitt Stephens*. Harvard University Press.  
MILTON ON EDUCATION. Edited by *Oliver Morley Ainsworth*. Yale University Press. \$2.75.  
THE ADMINISTRATION OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. By *Arthur S. Gist*. Scribner's. \$1.80.  
TECHNIC OF CHILD ANALYSIS. By *Anna Freud*. New York: Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Co.  
INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING. By *George Mackness*. Dutton. \$2.70.

### Fiction

WHEN WEST WAS WEST. By *OWEN WISTER*. Macmillan. 1928. \$2.50.

With one's reading habits altered to meet the incisive brevity, the subjectivity, and the dramatic intensity of the contemporary story, it is not easy to read stories written so wholly in the manner of nineteen-hundred as are these of Owen Wister. They are long and leisurely, burdened with detail, and such drama as they disclose—and some of them are fantastically melodramatic—is given a quality of drugged, liquid distance such as one sees in a cinema fight shown in slow motion.

West was West in the days which Wister describes. Where girls in khaki breeches and sweaters now hitch-hike, Indians walked in beaded buckskins; where the cars now line up for gasoline, ponies were hobbled in drowsy rows before an ominous saloon; where tourists wash their handkerchiefs in geyser water and throw their cigarette butts into purple mud, intrepid men explored and studied; and Custer and the Seventh Cavalry fought over the country which now clicks in tedious miles past the windows of Pullman cars.

And Wister was Wister when he wrote "The Virginian." How many middle-aged Americans who read it in their gay days keep green the memory of that story by recommending it to their boys and girls and by rereading it themselves, off and on! Perhaps they may still hope, in spite of years, to find the Wister that they knew in these stories of the West that he knew once so well. If so, they will be disappointed. But perhaps it is not Wister who has changed. Perhaps it is themselves—or the times.

FOLLY'S HANDBOOK. By *MARY AGNES HAMILTON*. Harcourt, Brace. 1927. \$2.50.

We have so many novels out of England which are no worse than we can do ourselves gravely heralded as comparable with Hardy's, Woolf's, or Whosever, that it is surprising to find a volume with as much merit as "Folly's Handbook" coming quite unannounced and unrecommended. There is an austerity about Miss Hamilton's book that makes it poor material for the blurb writer, which perhaps accounts for the

silence regarding it. It makes little compromise with the casual reader, being reminiscent of the Henry James technique in not letting anything be settled until the end. The chapters as they appear pile detail upon detail and elucidate stroke by stroke the characters in the dragnet of the plot, but never hand out gratuitously any master-key that will unlock either the complete situation or a complete personality.

It might be called a mystery story of characters in the dragnet of the plot, but from clue to clue after the identity of a criminal, one pursues almost equally labyrinthine ways to the summation of individualities. The flaw in this portrait of the woman as an artist lies in Miss Hamilton's failure to stamp it definitely enough with her intention. There is room for suspicion that some of the reader's puzzlement concerning the motives that lie behind the actions is shared by the author herself. But if "Folly's Handbook" falls a little short of its aim, what it does achieve is far more worth while than anything attained by many finished novels that accomplish their ends because their ends are so easily accomplished.

THE INVADERS. By *Hilda Vaughan*. Harper. \$2.50.

THE RED SCAR. By *Anthony Wynne*. Lippincott. \$2.

BEAU IDEAL. By *Percival Christopher Wren*. Stokes. \$2.

WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE. By *Honoré Willson Morrow*. Morrow. \$2.50.

KENTUCKY MOUNTAIN FANTASIES. By *Percy Mackaye*. Longman's. \$2.50.

APRON STRINGS. By *May Freud Dickenson*. Macaulay. \$2.

THE DOUBTFUL YEAR. By *John Lebar*. Appleton. \$2.

HURRYING FEET. By *Frederic F. Van de Water*. Appleton. \$2.

THEY RETURN AT EVENING. By *H. R. Wakefield*. Appleton. \$2.

LADY IN MARBLE. By *Robert E. McClure*. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50.

DIVIDED ALLEGIANCE. By *Stephen McKenna*. Dodd, Mead. \$2.50.

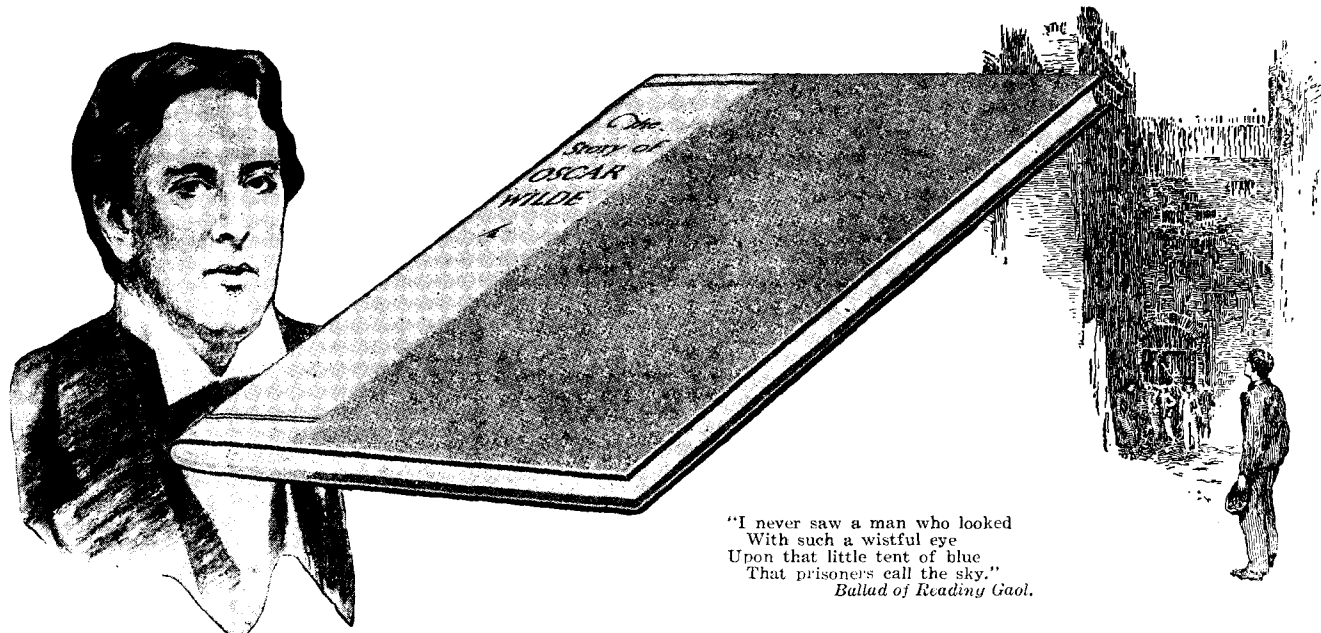
THE PURE IN HEART. By *J. Kessel*. Dodd, Mead. \$2.50.

THE DEVIL'S JEST. By *Elizabeth Carfrae*. Harpers. \$2.

THE STRANGE CASE OF "WILLIAM" COOK. By *Richard Keverne*. Harpers. \$2.

MR. STANDFAST. By *John Buchan*. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.

(Continued on next page)



"I never saw a man who looked  
With such a wistful eye  
Upon that little tent of blue  
That prisoners call the sky."  
Ballad of Reading Gaol.

## FREE "The Story of Oscar Wilde"

Read the truth about Oscar Wilde's sensational career, and his imprisonment that shocked all England. This fascinating brochure is FREE, with our compliments, for a limited period. No obligation. Mail the coupon below for your copy—NOW!

"I FEAR I am dying as I lived, beyond my means," said Oscar Wilde, before he passed away. It was his last *bon mot*, so many of which have become famous, and it was characteristic of his irrepressible good humor. He died with his name under a cloud, but not before he had written "De Profundis," "a work that has no counterpart in English literature"; not before he had written "The Ballad of Reading Gaol," which critics acclaim as the greatest ballad in the English language; not before he produced what dramatists themselves assert is the wittiest of all English comedies; not before he had written his haunting "Picture of Dorian Gray," afterward translated into seventeen languages; not before he had spun, for adults as well as children, some of the tenderest fairy tales written in all the ages.

### Genius Unsurpassed

Never was there such a variegated genius as Oscar Wilde, and certainly never in the history of literature a more sensational career.

Wilde's case is parallel with that of

Poe, De Maupassant, Rousseau, Coleridge, DeQuincy, and many other great masters who lived within the shadows, but whose work is immortal. Since his death, there has been an unceasing and ever-increasing demand for his complete works.

In order adequately to meet this demand for Wilde's books among intelligent people, a new edition has been prepared that possesses two very unusual features. One is the distinguished company of famous men who have contributed introductions and fascinating reminiscences of Wilde. To list their names is enough. They are: Richard Le Gallienne, Padraic Colum, John Drinkwater, Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, Richard Butler Glaenzer, Coulson Kernahan, Michael Monahan, W. F. Morse, Walter Pater, John Cowper Powys, Edgar Saltus, Clifford Smyth, Arthur Symonds, A. B. Walkley, and William Butler Yeats.

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## The New Books

## Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

- THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS. By John Buchan. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.  
 GREENMANTLE. By John Buchan. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.  
 THE SILVER TASSIE. By Sean O'Casey. Macmillan. \$1.75.  
 THE TRIAL OF PATRICK MAHON. By Edgar Wallace. Scribner's \$3.

## Government

- PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY. Addresses and State Papers of Alfred E. Smith. Edited by HENRY MOSKOWITZ. Harcourt, Brace. 1928. \$3.

In this volume may be found all that one needs to know about the political and governmental beliefs of Governor Smith, at least as these are related to State affairs. National and international questions do not come within its purview except to the extent to which a principle may have an application beyond the limits of State government or a particular matter, such as the repeal of the Mullan-Gage law, may compel consideration of Federal as well as State powers. If the book discloses once more Governor Smith's familiarity with the public business of New York State, some of the addresses it contains give a definite impression of his personality. This is true in special measure of the concluding selection, entitled "Defying Hearst" and being the speech made in October, 1919, in New York City in reply to the charge that Smith was aiding the "milk trust." One of the most notable selections in the volume is neither an address nor a state paper. It is Smith's reply to the open letter addressed to him by Charles C. Marshall on the political implications of Catholicism in this country.

The most important—almost the only—selection relating to Governor Smith's position upon national issues and therefore of interest in connection with his candidacy for the Presidency is a newspaper article which is reprinted under the heading, "Duty and Opportunity of the Democratic Party." In this article Smith denounces Republican

"corruption" at Washington, calls for "a tariff of honesty," does not mention prohibition, but doubtless has it in mind when he urges the recognition of "reasonable differences of viewpoint in widely differing sections," decries "the dangerous over-centralization of Federal power," favors public ownership and control of national resources, and declares, "We must come together with other nations to end war."

## History

- THE TENDENCY OF HISTORY. By Henry Adams. Macmillan. \$1.50.  
 FEUDAL GERMANY. By James Westfall Thompson. University of Chicago Press. \$5.  
 THE TREATIES OF 1778. Edited by G. Chinard. Johns Hopkins Press. \$2.50.  
 THE IMMEDIATE ORIGINS OF THE WAR. By Pierre Renouvin. Translated by Theodore Caswell Hume. Yale University Press. \$4.  
 HAMILTONIAN PRINCIPLES. Edited by James Truslow Adams. Little, Brown. \$2 net.  
 JEFFERSONIAN PRINCIPLES. Edited by James Truslow Adams. Little, Brown. \$2 net.  
 THE NILE AND EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION. By A. Moret. Knopf. \$7.50.  
 THE MIDDLE AGES. By E. B. Osborn. Doubleday, Doran. \$1.50.  
 THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND ITS SUCCESSORS. By William Miller. Cambridge University Press (Macmillan). \$5.25.  
 THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. By William Starr Myers. Century. \$5.  
 THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. By Frank R. Kent. Century. \$5.  
 THE ANCIENT WORLD AND ITS LEGACY TO US. By A. W. F. Blunt. Oxford University Press. \$1.50.  
 SIDE LIGHTS ON AMERICAN HISTORY. By Henry William Elson. Macmillan. 2 vols.  
 VIRGINIA AND THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR. By Hayes Baker-Crothers. University of Chicago Press. \$2.  
 THE ROLE OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. By Martha Ornstein. University of Chicago Press. \$5.  
 CAPITAL AND FINANCE IN THE AGE OF THE RENAISSANCE. By Richard Ehrenberg. \$4.50.  
 EMPIRE TO COMMONWEALTH. By Walter Phelps Hall. Holt.  
 THE HISTORY OF HITCHIN. By Reginald L. Hine. London. Allen & Unwin.  
 THE NEW ENGLAND CLERGY AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. By Alice M. Baldwin. Duke University Press. \$3.50.  
 BUCCANEERS OF THE PACIFIC. By George Wycherley. Bobbs-Merrill. \$5.

(Continued on page 1058)

## The Wits' Weekly

Conducted by EDWARD DAVISON

Competition No. 38. A prize of fifteen dollars is offered for the best Behaviorist's Lullaby for a Little Child. (Entries should reach *The Saturday Review* office, 25 West 45th Street, New York, not later than the morning of July 30.)

Competition No. 39. A prize of fifteen dollars is offered for the best short lyric imitating the mood and manner of Mr. A. E. Housman. (Entries should reach *The Saturday Review* office not later than the morning of August 13.)

Attention is called to the rules printed below.

## THE THIRTY-SIXTH COMPETITION

The prize of fifteen dollars offered for the best short Ballad of Book Titles with the refrain  
*Dead lovers are faithful lovers,  
 But gentlemen marry brunettes*  
 has been equally divided between E. M. S. Lockwood, and J. K. Wetherill.

## THE PRIZE BALLADS

## I.

BALLAD OF THOSE NEITHER PREFERRER NOR MARRIED  
 L O! we sing Diana, tall men,  
 And revel in the way things are.  
 Dark girls vow and conjure Eden;  
 Blondes bewail their unkind star.  
 But we, the red-haired, call you  
 "bothers,"

And thrust old swords through your regrets.  
 Dead lovers are faithful lovers, . . .  
 But gentlemen marry brunettes.

*Etched in moonlight, armed with  
 madness,  
 We dance before the vestal fire.  
 Men without women live in sadness—  
 The Cap of Youth is our desire.  
 Share the marriage bed with others;  
 At daybreak seek the fair coquettes.  
 Dead lovers are faithful lovers,  
 But gentlemen marry brunettes.*

*Meanwhile, we of Witch Wood caution:  
 "Sisters, these men, thy friends, are  
 flirts!  
 Scatter not thy hearts before them—  
 Blight of old enchantment hurts.  
 This singing world was made for  
 rovers!  
 Escape the mis'ry man begets!  
 Dead lovers are faithful lovers,  
 But gentlemen marry brunettes!"*  
 ELEANOR M. S. LOCKWOOD.

## II.

## BALLAD OF BOOK TITLES

*Men Are So Selfish!—they crave  
 Sweet Pepper,  
 And Eva's Apples, and Meat, and  
 Bread;  
 They eagerly traverse The Land of  
 Green Ginger  
 For a rollicking day—And So To  
 Bed!  
 Love and The Ladies, The Lovely  
 Ducklings,  
 They follow, forgetting the world's  
 best bets—  
 That Dead Lovers Are Faithful  
 Lovers,  
 But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes.  
 Men Are Like That!—when Heaven  
 Trees beckon,  
 Amid Wide Fields, if The Torches  
 Flare,  
 They give to counsel a Dusty Answer,  
 And sport with the Daughters of  
 Folly fair.*

*Through Burning Bush they'd chase  
 The Wild Body,  
 And question only if Bad Girl pets,  
 Though Dead Lovers Are Faithful  
 Lovers,  
 But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes.*

*Pleasure If Possible!—that is their  
 motto;  
 What'll We Do Now? still they cry;  
 Blight, Red Rust, and Sawdust and  
 Solitude*

*Only cause them to yawn and sigh.  
 Cursed Be the Treasure!—The Golden  
 Bubble  
 Which lures like Boojum, till man  
 forgets  
 That Dead Lovers Are Faithful  
 Lovers,  
 But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes.*  
 J. K. WETHERILL.

Mrs. Elise R. Noyes of the Stamford Bookshop, supported by John V. A. Weaver, lured me to set this subject. Certainly the accidental refrain was inviting. "Ever since the posters for these works happened to be set up cheek by jowl in the bookstore," write Mrs. Noyes, "we have been haunted by the rhythm." Well, I fell for the suggestion and no doubt deserved to be haunted in turn by the resulting collection of shreds and patches.

The two prizewinners, J. F. Doughty, Phoebe Scribble, Marshall M. Brice, Spencer Brown, Laura A. Streight, Homer M. Parsons, and Garland Smith (who wrote better than most, but forgot that a ballad was wanted) were the best of the few competitors who contrived to do something more than string a few titles meaninglessly together. Dorothy E. Smith's compilation in places irresistibly reminded me of certain poems by Mr. T. S. Eliot, witness—

*Great captains unveiled  
 Diana at the bath  
 Etched in moonlight—  
 The almost perfect state—  
 We sing Diana;  
 Judy drops in. 'C'est la guerre.  
 Dead lovers are faithful lovers,  
 But gentlemen marry brunettes.*  
 Of the rest, the less said the better.  
 The best in this kind are but  
 shadows . . .

## RULES

Competitors failing to comply with the following rules will be disqualified. Envelopes should be addressed to Edward Davison, *The Saturday Review of Literature*, 25 West 45th Street, New York City. All MSS. must be legible—typewritten if possible—and should bear the name or pseudonym of the author. Competitors may offer more than one entry. MSS. cannot be returned. The Editor's decision is final and *The Saturday Review* reserves the right to print the whole or part of any entry.

We print a poem left over from a recent competition.

THE HEAVENLY DRUM (Fragment from a long Poem)

By MR. VACHEL LINDSAY

*. . . And the chanting hosts of heaven raise  
 Their swinging ringing song.  
 From great volcanoes, fiery rays  
 Illumine that strange throng.  
 And the angels dance like rag-time kings;  
 And the Springfield wantons, with sudden wings  
 Move in transfigured glory and grace;  
 And you would not know a burglar's face!  
 And the boom! boom! boom! of the Heavenly Drum  
 Keeps on calling  
 "Come!"*

(Stamp feet here, in time with the verse.)

(Stop stamping feet here.)

(Loud)

(Softer)

*"Come!" . . .  
 . . . Then I saw the soul of Billy Sunday.  
 Then I heard his voice.  
 And all the Golden Goats of Springfield  
 Sang together . . . . .*

(To be spoken very softly)  
(Quietly, majestically)

(To be spoken as if hearing distant singing.)

HANS MAULSCHNAPPER, Dr. juris.

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*The Independent*:—

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 to compare in illumination and general stolidity  
 with Mr. Foerster's new work."

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by Norman Foerster

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\$3.50

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